the microfilm copies of all records which were taken away by the Government of France from Pondicherry and Chandernagore before these territories were merged with the Indian Union. These records are housed at the Depot des Archives d' Outre Mer, Chemin du Moulin de Testas, les Fenouilleres. The Ministry for External Relations of France, after having studied the possibilities for financing the operation, has regretted to abandon the project for lack of sufficient funds.

In view of the above the Government of India may be requested to finance the whole microfilm programme.

5.2.9.2.6

Setting up of a regional records repository of the National Archives of India in the eastern region of India

Resolution by Prof. Hiren Chakraborty:

A regional records repository of the National Archives of India be set up in the eastern region of India to house the non-current records of the various offices, institutions and undertakings of the Government of India in the eastern region.

Explanatory Note: A large number of non-current records is lying scattered in various offices of the central government, its undertakings and autonomous bodies, in eastern India. These records are mostly very old and are in deplorable state of preservation. Institutions and organisations like the Botanical Survey of India, the Geological Survey of India, the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the Port Authority, the Railways and many other central government offices have their headquarters at Calcutta and in the adjoining areas. The records of these offices by their very nature constitute an important source-material for the socio-economic history of the country. Records accumulated in these offices are generally destroyed at

periodical intervals or are disposed of as waste paper. Unless some immediate steps are taken to centralise these records in a regional repository and necessary arrangements made for their preservation, they will be lost for ever to posterity and this will mean a permanent loss to historical research in future. The National Archives of India has already opened three regional archival repositories at Jaipur, Pondicherry and Bhopal. It is now incumbent on the part of the National Archives to open another regional archival repository in eastern India, preferably in Calcutta or its neighbourhood, to house such records.

Standing Committee's views: The National Archives of India has a scheme for opening regional record centres in different regions of the country. During the Fifth Five Year Plan two centres, one each at Jaipur and Pondicherry, were opened and in the Sixth Plan period it was proposed to open two more regional centres, one each in the Northern and North Eastern Region to house records of the Central Government Offices located in the respective regions. Moreover, these centres are required to acquire private papers of national importance as also to tender technical assistance and advice to the State Government institutions and agencies in matters of preservation and reprography.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the Secretary, North East India Council for Social Science Research, Shillong had earlier forwarded to the National Archives of India a resolution passed by its governing body for opening a regional centre of the National Archives of India in a suitable place

in the North Eastern Region so as to remove existing inadequacies in the maintenance of valuable records as also to facilitate historical research in that region. The National Archives of India had then sought the assistance of the Council in locating a suitable building for the proposed centre.

The National Archives of India has also addressed a letter to the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya seeking his comments on the proposal. But there has not been any response so far.

5.2.9.2.7
Microfilming of the records in the Shankaracharya Mutt at Sringeri, Karnataka.

Resolution by Dr. Suryanath Kamath:

Resolved that the National Archives of India be requested to complete the work of microfilming the records in the Shankaracharya Mutt at Sringeri, Karnataka.

Explanatory Note: In accordance with the Resolution passed at the 40th and 41st (Resolution-VIII) Sessions of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the National Archives of India microfilmed 314 kaditas housed in the Sringeri Mutt. These records throw light on the relations of the Mutt with Mysore, the Nizam, the Marathas and other dynasties of the times, and also on the religious, social and economic conditions during the last two centuries and thereof of national importance.

However many more records which had not been fully examined earlier have now been examined and a list of the records has been prepared. Hence the records should be microfilmed by the National Archives of India and be made